

Who Determines Eligibility?

DCF administers the adoption assistance program. Determination of eligibility and negotiation of the amount and type of assistance is the responsibility of local DCF Service Center Staff.

Where Can I Get More Information?

For more information about Adoption Assistance or other DCF Services, call toll free 1-888-369-4777, visit www.dcf.ks.gov or contact your local DCF service center and ask to speak to the regional adoption assistance expert.

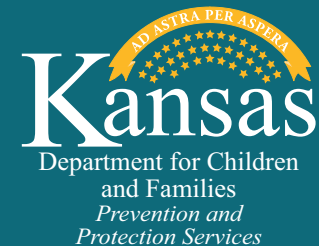


PPS-Appendix 6B
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Adoption Assistance



A Resource for
Families Adopting
Children with Special
Needs



What is Adoption Assistance?

Adoption assistance is available to families adopting children with special service, support and/or resource needs.

What Type of Help is Available?

A child may qualify for any or all of the following types of assistance:

- Non-recurring Adoption Expenses: This is a reimbursement of up to \$2,000 for expenses directly related to the process of adopting a child with special needs, such as attorney fees. Payment is issued upon finalization.
- Medical Services: Children who qualify may receive health care coverage through the state/federal health insurance program, Title XIX (Medicaid).
- Monthly Adoption Subsidy Payment: Children may be determined eligible for a monthly cash subsidy payment.
- Special Service Payments: This may be approved for a time-limited or a one-time only expenditure. A special service payment may be authorized on a time limited or one-time only basis if the child has a specific need which cannot be met through the Medicaid program, the monthly cash subsidy payment or other resources.

How Does a Child Qualify for Assistance?

A child must be legally free for adoption and must be placed by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) or a private licensed child placing agency.

To be eligible for adoption assistance the child shall have one or more specific factors or conditions which limit the adoptability of the child.

What is Considered a Special Need?

Factors considered when identifying a special need are:

- Physical, mental, developmental or emotional disabilities
- Child's age
- Placement with sibling group
- Child's background (ex: genetic, health, social risk factors)

Will Adoption Assistance Cover All the Child's Needs?

Adoption assistance is intended to give support to the adoptive family to meet the special needs of the child. It is a general expectation that families pursuing adoption have determined they have the financial means to meet the day to day expenses of raising a child.

How is the Amount and Type of Adoption Assistance Determined?

The type and amount of assistance is determined through a negotiation between the adoptive family and DCF. The negotiation focuses on the special needs of the child, family resources and any other available resources. Not all special needs require a monthly cash subsidy payment. The type and the amount will vary from family to family.

When will Adoption Assistance Start?

Adoption assistance may begin when the adoptive placement begins and an adoptive placement agreement is signed. Adoption assistance agreements must be signed before the adoption is finalized.

How Long will the Adoption Assistance Stay in Effect?

The adoption assistance agreement is a legally binding contract that may remain in effect until the child reaches age 18, unless a shorter time is determined and agreed to by the adoptive parents. A youth may continue to be eligible if still attending high school past age 18, and dependent upon his/her parents for support. It may continue up to age 21 if the child has a documented physical or mental condition which warrants continued assistance. Medicaid coverage may be effected if the adoptive family moves out of state.